

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Office Action dated March 27, 2007 (the Action).

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephone interviews with Applicant's attorney on July 12, 20, and 25, 2007. The present remarks shall constitute an Interview Summary pursuant to MPEP §713.04.

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication in the Action that Claims 8, 13, 24 and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, independent Claims 1, 17 and 29 have been amended to generally include the recitations of Claims 8, 24 and 36, respectively, including the recitations of the intervening claims. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent form. Minor clarifying amendments have been made, for example, to correct claim dependencies. Claims 2, 5, 8, 18, 21, 24, 30, 33 and 36 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 13, 17 and 29 and Claims 3-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 19-20, 22-23, 25-28, 31-32, 34-35 and 37-40 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance as indicated in the Action.

Claims 14-16 were rejected in the Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,549,112 to Cockburn. Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the distal portion of the shaft (*i.e.*, the tip of the shaft) is fully enclosed by the sheath, the vibrator is configured to cause the distal portion of the shaft to oscillate at a shaft frequency using a mechanical vibrational coupling, and the isolator is configured to reduce a strain from a weight of the vibrator on the shaft. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication in the telephone interview on July 25, 2007 that the above amendments to Claim 14 would place Claims 14 and Claims 15-16 depending therefrom in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any matters outstanding of resolution, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 919-854-1400 for expeditious handling.

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Respectfully submitted,

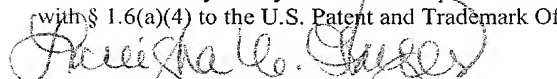


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**CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 27, 2007.

  
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